



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **APRIL 16, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absences

John A. Hammargren

Others Present

Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services
Michael Cooper, Probation Department
Carla Carr, Department of Auditor-Controller
Commander Dave Fender, Sheriff's Department
Jim Nettles, Community Care Licensing Division

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaña welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Dave Fender announced he is the new Representative from the Sheriff's Department and is looking forward to working with the Commission.

The Honorable Sheriff Lee Baca held a Town Hall Meeting with the Antelope Valley residents who voiced concerns regarding the proposal of expanding the Lancaster's Mira Loma Detention Center Complex.

Probation Department:

Mr. Michael Cooper introduced himself as the Director of Placements Bureau for the Probation Department, and asked the Commission to notify the Department in advance regarding key issues they would like to discuss, and then gave the following report:

- The Probation Department takes approximately 45 days to process documentation for a child who is placed in a Probation Camp or Group Home.
- The second Biannual Chief Collaboration Conference, "Partnering with Law Enforcement", was held on March 17, 2008, and was a successful event.
- The Journey House Group Home was placed on "Administrative Hold".
- Eleven (11) Probation Group Homes did not submit requests for contract renewals.
- The population in group homes is dwindling since youths are moving out to Aftercare Programs within four (4) to five (5) months of placement.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following, for the period of January 1, 2008 - April 15, 2008:

- The reported number of physical abuse cases was 33.
- The number of sexual abuse cases was 8.
- The number of runaways from group homes was 974.
- Per the iTrack system for DCFS and Probation, there were 1553 cases of runaways.

- The number of general complaints by minors was 10-15 for the month of March 2008.
- Two (2) Hudson Lyndsey Group Homes have been placed on the "Do Not Use" list.
- Thirty-three (33) group homes did not submit requests for contract renewals.

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

The youth from Ha're John's Paradise Group Home was inappropriately placed because he is developmentally delayed. The youth was relocated to a home in Newhall but continues to run away. DCFS has serious concerns with Ha're John's Paradise Group Home.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Carla Carr reported the following:

The Auditors are focusing on the follow-up of corrective action plans on group homes. A summary of corrective action plans will be available at the next Business meeting.

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Internal Services Department: No representative was present.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Mr. Jim Nettles introduced himself and informed the Commission he is representing Ms. Angelica Lopez.

Chair Montañó and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 9, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 9, 2008 were approved with the following changes:

- On Page 2, under "Discussion of Scholarship Programs", in a Foster or Group Home remove "*as opposed to*"; and add "*in addition to a youth in a Community College*"...
- On page 3, under "Facility/Group Home Inspection Reports" Touch A Life Foundation after First Aid Kit, add "*will revisit in 30 days for Corrective Action*"...
- On page 3, Vice Chair Stathatos reported that she spoke, add "*by phone*" with Steven Smith...

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó reported on the following two (2) articles:

- "Feds Actions Beyond Cruel", Los Angeles Times, March 13, 2008, regarding Francisco Casteneda, a detainee who was denied treatment for cancer resulting in his death.
- "Some Oppose Lancaster Jail Expansion", Los Angeles Times, April 13, 2008, regarding Antelope Valley residents voicing concerns over a proposal to expand Lancaster's Mira Loma Detention Center Complex.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,148.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services distributed the DCFS Out Of Home Care Division Monitoring Dates for May 2008 and then gave the following report:

- Assistant Sheriff Marvin Cavanaugh from the Sheriff's Department will give a presentation to the Commission on April 30, 2008.
- The new "Timecard Collection System" requires Commissioners to submit their time sheets on a bi-weekly basis, instead of monthly.

APPROVAL OF SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION QUARTERLY REPORT REPORT FOR JANUARY – MARCH 2008

On motion of Commissioner Stathatos, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the Sybil Brand Commission Quarterly Report for January – March 2008 was approved with the following change:

- On page 2, "San Gabriel Childrens' Center" under Specific Facilities Inspected, change three to "*four ditches in backyard*".

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Commissioner Bacio will provide the Commission with information regarding a possible scholarship candidate from East Los Angeles PAU School; she will be graduating in September 2008.

Vice Chair Stathatos proposed giving repeat scholarships to last year's scholarship recipients, after discussion by the Commission, it was decided to give the scholarships to new candidates for 2008.

Commissioner Hall reported that the student she was seeking for a possible scholarship, transferred out of foster care and she was only in the 11th grade.

Commissioner Hall proposed developing a scholarship application, which would require transcripts, a student autobiography, and other related information for the "Sybil Brand Scholarship" awards in 2009.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Junior League of Los Angeles Inc., held the Community Leadership Forum 2008, "Aging Out Of The Foster Care System", on March 4, 2008 at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities.

A letter was received from Captain Todd S. Rogers from the Sheriff's Department thanking the Commission for their letter commending Deputy Patrick Copp of the Carson Station.

A letter was received from Chief Richard J. Barrantes Court Services Division, Sheriff's Department, thanking the Commission for alerting the Department to the concerns at Long Beach, Pomona, and West Covina/Torrance Courthouses.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM APRIL 9, 2008 TO APRIL 15, 2008

Manna Manor (Ravenna) – 36, #5 - Chair Montaña

The facility was visited on April 1, 2008, and no one was home.

Moore's Cottage – 39, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on April 7, 2008, and no one was home.

Dangerfield Group Home I – 13, #1 – Commissioners Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on April 10, 2008, and no one was home.

Renaissance Unlimited #4 – 51, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on April 14, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concerns: Remove graffiti from outside wall; outside vent needs to be repaired; floor in the hall needs to be fixed; shower and wash bowl needs re-caulking; door jam needs to be repaired; new first aid kit needed.

Glass Group Home (Stephen Gabin) – 24, #2 – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on April 15, 2008, and found to be in good condition.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division